

Goodyear 2025 General Plan Committee Meeting Summary

Meeting #7 – April 9th, 2013

After the official business of addressing absent members and approving last months minuets, the General Plan Committee opened the floor to the public. This month's meeting was about the neighborhood section of the General Plan. Vincent Lopez, a Goodyear resident, gave an excellent presentation on some growing health problems in the state and how one solution can take place on the city level. His idea of cities creating "health communities" involves developing an environment that encourages the population to commute, live, and recreate by walking and biking; mitigating the use/ dependence on automobiles. The city was glad to see residence participating in the General Plan and many members of the General Plan Committee agree with Mr. Lopez on the need for making healthy neighborhoods.

After Mr. Lopez's presentation Katie handed out the first draft of the Vision and Character section of the General Plan. There was a brief discussion on the format, but Katie encouraged everyone to write down their comments on the draft because it will not be reviewed until the end of the year, when the first draft of the General Plan 2025 is Complete.

Next up, were the four idea champions that had prepared presentations for the committee. Deb Robinson started with a power point on "Putting Health Back into Communities", this followed closely with Mr. Lopez's idea about creating a health environment to improve the quality of the community. There were five solutions outlined in her presentation: 1) Create a food Policy Council 2) Community Food Assessment (ex. Maryville) 3) Community Supported Agriculture 4) Healthy Food retail 5) Include a health impact assessment in the General Plan.

Following Deb's presentation, Jeff Klaessy presented about "Promoting the Arts in Goodyear". He explained to the council how cultural centers and performing arts centers are an integral part of a community and how the size of the community should not be a limiting factor. He listed various towns and cities that had a performing arts center and the positive impact they had on the communities and their economies.

Dave Wilson also presented on the benefits on having a performing arts center. His focus was on Torrance, California which is a similar town to Goodyear in both size and location outside of a big city. This city was able to build a performing arts/ cultural center with several stages, gardens and courtyards all without touching public tax dollars. This was done with fundraisers, donations, and help from the community. This venue puts on over 150 performances a year and is cherished by its community. Dave

was reiterated the point that he felt that the west valley needs an arts center and that this is one way Goodyear could get one.

The last Idea Champion to present was Dave Moriuchi, who showed the committee a short video about the Waterfront master planned community in Vancouver. This was a 30 acre infill, mixed use project that had a lot of design challenges to solve before it could be implemented. Dave highlighted the process of getting over various design challenges to make an end product that the community will benefit from.

Leslie took over from here and facilitated a discussion to find the "Big Ideas" that the committee has for the neighborhoods in Goodyear. During this exercise she introduces Lilly, who works in Neighborhood Services and was offering her expertise to the committee while they worked on the neighborhood section of the General Plan. From here Katie gave a presentation on Preservation vs. Redevelopment which clarified different sections of the neighborhoods chapter before the committee started the deeper conversation on the matter. Chuck Watson added his personal experience of living in a community without an HOA which also helped keep the committee on track with next discussion Leslie was going lead.

The last discussion of the night was on neighborhood identity. Leslie really pushed the committee to say what they felt and refine their thoughts to specific elements. These elements where then written down and shared with the committee; where the committee collaborated to understand the comments and refine these ideas further, if needed. After this discussion Katie wrapped up the night with a reminder to comment of the draft chapter and thanked the idea champions again for their hard work.